Industries Corporation (PASIC) have been given a special dispensation to import cement under the provisions of Cement (Quality Control) Order, 2003 to enable availability of significant quantities of imported cement in the market. The export of cement has also been banned and Government's resolve to take strict measures to curb profiteering and cartelization have been announced.

Extending coffee plantations to non-traditional areas

3859. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is taking up measures to extend coffee plantations to non-traditional areas of the country;

(b) if so, whether the hilly regions are included under the said expansions;

(c) if so, which regions of Andhra Pradesh are covered under the project;

(d) what has been the proposed financial outlay earmarked for coffee development in the State;

(e) whether the measures include capacity building for all stake holders; and

(f) if so, the details of the capacity building measures and the details of stakeholders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Ananthagiri, Araku Valley, Dumbriguda, Hukumpeta, Peddabayalu, Manchingput, Paderu, G. Madugula, Chintappali, and G.K. Veedhi Mandals in Visakhapatnam District of Andhra Pradesh are covered under the coffee development programme.

(d) Out of Rs. 45 crore allocated for the development of coffee in Non Traditional Areas (NTAs) during the Eleventh Plan period, Rs. 40 crore is provided for Andhra Pradesh.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The capacity building measures in NTAs are mainly focused on the training and skill building of coffee growers, farm workers and resource personnel of the Agencies who are involved in coffee cultivation, by conducting on farm training, study tours, group meetings, campaigns, workshops etc.

Export of Ayurvedic medicines and natural herbs

†3860. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Ayurvedic medicines and natural herbs are highly in demand in Europe; and

(b) the details of steps being taken by Government to promote the export of said items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) There is greater awareness

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.